

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

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TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 035596

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJECT: SRI LANKAN INTEREST IN MIDDLE EAST, MULTILATERAL
AFFAIRS AND THE NON-ALIGNED MEETING

FOLLOWING FOR EMBASSY INFORMATION

1. SUMMARY. ON FEBRUARY 10, FIRST SECRETARY DHANAPALA
CALLED ON NEA AND IO OFFICERS. DISCUSSION COVERED (1)
MIDDLE EAST; (2) DEPARTMENT'S OFFICE OF MULTILATERAL
AFFAIRS AND (3) NON-ALIGNED MEETING IN COLOMBO. ON (1)
DHANAPALA SAID SRI LANKA WOULD BE INTERESTED IN US
VIEWS ON KIND OF MIDDLE EAST RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD BE
HELPFUL. ON (2) DHANAPALA WAS INTERESTED PRIMARILY IN
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CONNECTION BETWEEN AID LEVELS AND VOTES IN INTERNATIONAL

ORGANIZATIONS. ON (3) DHANAPALA WAS AT SOME PAINS TO EMPHASIZE SRI LANKA'S INTEREST IN POSITIVE NON-CONFRONTATIONAL OUTCOME. END SUMMARY.

2. MIDDLE EAST. DHANAPALA WANTED TO KNOW WHAT KIND OF A RESOLUTION TO BE ADOPTED BY THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE THE US WOULD REGARD AS SUPPORTIVE OF US PEACE-MAKING EFFORTS. IF THE US COULD CONVEY ITS VIEWS ON THE CONFERENCE'S MIDDLE EAST RESOLUTION AT AN EARLY DATE, MR. DHANAPALA SAID MRS. BANDARANAIKE WOULD BE VERY INTERESTED AND WOULD WEIGH THEM VERY CAREFULLY. DEPT OFFICER SAID HE WOULD RELAY MR. DHANAPALA'S SUGGESTION TO HIS SUPERIORS.

3. MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS OFFICE. DHANAPALA ASKED FOR A BRIEFING ON WHAT THE NEW OFFICE WAS INTENDED TO DO. MATERIAL IN CIRCTEL 013264 WAS USED IN REPLY. DHANAPALA ASKED SPECIFICALLY IF AID PROGRAMS WERE TO BE LINKED TO VOTING PERFORMANCE IN THE UN. HE WAS TOLD THAT VOTING PERFORMANCE AND GENERAL ATTITUDE IN THE UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORUMS WOULD BE ONE ELEMENT THAT WAS TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IN MAKING DECISIONS AFFECTING THE BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN OURSELVES AND ANY GIVEN COUNTRY. IT WAS NOT INTENDED, THAT THERE WOULD BE A DIRECT LINKAGE BETWEEN VOTES AND AID LEVELS. NONETHELESS IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR COUNTRIES TO REALIZE THAT VOTING PATTERNS ON ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO US WOULD BE GIVEN WEIGHT IN REACHING DECISIONS ON BILATERAL MATTERS. DHANAPALA ASKED WHETHER AID HAD BEEN STOPPED TO ANY COUNTRY BECAUSE OF ITS VOTING PATTERN. HE WAS TOLD THAT UP TO THIS TIME AID PROGRAMS HAD NOT BEEN MODIFIED SOLELY BECAUSE OF A VOTE IN THE UN.

4. NON-ALIGNED MEETING. DHANAPALA WAS AT SOME PAINS TO STRESS THAT SRI LANKA DESIRED A POSITIVE NON-CONFRONTATIONAL OUTCOME AND THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO MAINTAIN CLOSE LIAISON WITH OFFICERS IN THE DEPT DEALING WITH THIS ISSUE. HE WAS ASKED TO WHAT EXTENT THE HOST GOVERNMENT COULD INFLUENCE THE MEETING, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE AGENDA WOULD HAVE ALREADY BEEN ADOPTED AT THE SPRING CONFIDENTIAL

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MEETING. DHANAPALA NOTED THAT WHILE THE AGENDA WOULD BE SET THE PAPERS THEMSELVES WOULD NOT BE IN FINAL FORM UNTIL THE MEETING. HE SAID THE HOST GOVERNMENT, AS PRESIDING OFFICIAL OF THE NON-ALIGNED MEETING, HAD CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE AS TO HOW THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED. HE SAID IN PARTICULAR THAT THE DETERMINATION OF WHAT CONSTITUTED A CONSENSUS WAS TO A LARGE EXTENT LEFT TO THE PRESIDING OFFICER. HE THOUGHT THAT SINCE THE NON-

ALIGNED OPERATED THROUGH CONSENSUS THAT SUCH DETERMINATION
COULD BE IMPORTANT. HE SAID THAT SRI LANKA HOPED THAT
THE CONFERENCE WOULD AVOID QUOTE SLOGANEERING UNQUOTE AND
WOULD CONCENTRATE ON MATTERS WHICH COULD IMPROVE THE
ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF THE NON-ALIGNED. DHANAPALA SAID
THAT SRI LANKA WAS GIVING SOME THOUGHT TO THE POSSIBILITY
OF INSTITUTIONALIZING THE NON-ALIGNED GROUP BUT THAT NO
DECISION HAD BEEN MADE AS YET.
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